

CIA Documents on Francoist Spain's Arms Sales to Arab States

1) FRANCO'S NEGOTIATIONS FOR DELIVERING ARMS TO ARAB STATES

CIA Report (CIA-RDP82-00457R001800790007-3). This document explicitly notes: 'The arrival of Franco's envoys in Lebanon was the result of the offer of arms to the Arab states by Spain.' This is one of the clearest CIA references to Francoist Spain offering arms to Arab governments in the late 1940s/early 1950s.

2) SPANISH SOLIDARITY WITH THE ARAB LEAGUE OVER MOROCCO

CIA Report (CIA-RDP80-00809A000500800201-7). Discusses Spain's coordinated stance with the Arab League regarding Morocco. While not strictly an arms-transfer note, it shows the Franco regime's deliberate alignment with Arab states, providing the diplomatic framework in which arms discussions emerged.

3) BACKGROUND CONTEXT: SPAIN (CIA COUNTRY STUDY)

A CIA country study on Spain during Franco's rule highlights the regime's pursuit of ties with Latin American and Arab countries during its period of isolation. This context explains why arms overtures to Arab states occurred as part of a broader diplomatic strategy.

4) REGIONAL ARMS PROCUREMENT CONTEXT

CIA intelligence bulletins from the mid-1950s (e.g. on Egypt and regional procurement) trace Arab efforts to obtain arms from multiple suppliers, including the Soviet bloc and Western Europe. Spain's involvement fits into this broader pattern of competitive supply to Arab militaries.

This packet highlights the direct and contextual CIA documentation available through FOIA/CREST regarding Francoist Spain's arms overtures to Arab states, especially Egypt, Lebanon, and others, in the early Cold War.